

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Office of Legislative Counsel

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Mr. Thomas K. Latimer, Staff Director
Permanent Select Committee on
Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Tom:

In response to your oral query concerning deaths of
CIARDS retirees, I have received the following information
which I think bears on the subject and believe will be of
interest to you:

There is absolutely no foundation to the
rumor that a very significant number of CIARDS
retirees die within two years of their retirement
dates. From the inception of CIARDS through
October 1978 (a period of 14 years) there have been
 retirements under CIARDS, and of this total
 have died since they retired; thus, deaths in
CIARDS have amounted to 4.5% of retirements. It
is interesting to note that of the 39 employees
retired from CIARDS in 1965, the first year that
program was in effect, only one has died so far;
that retiree lived 11 1/2 years after he retired
and was age 75 when he died.

The two largest retirement years under CIARDS
were 1973 and 1974 when a total of employees
retired. or fewer
than 3%, have subsequently died.

The allegation about early deaths and a high
death rate among CIARDS retirees has been around
for years. It possibly results from a mis-directed
focus on the 4.5% deaths to the exclusion of the

95.5% of CIARDS retirees who are still alive. Another explanation could be the fall-out of a remark made during one of the Agency's retirement planning seminars to the effect that of a group of retired Navy chief petty officers with long service and no plans for retirement, most lived long enough to draw only eleven annuity checks. This remark was misinterpreted with the result that the story went around that CIA retirees lived long enough to draw only eleven retirement checks. It is possible that some further misinterpretation may have directed the observation only to CIA retirees.

I am also forwarding a summary of CIARDS retirements and deaths for each year since the inception of CIARDS. ☐

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Sincerely,

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Assistant Legislative Counsel

Enclosure

Distribution

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1 - Director of Personnel
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